

DIRECT LINE



Sue Kosse, Executive Director

ALIA staff

In issue 3 of *inCite* and this issue you will have seen the photographs of each of your national office staff members. You will also have noticed that you probably do not know many of them. As you know already, following the move of the Association's national office from Sydney to Canberra in July 1989, the Association replaced all of its staff, save for the Executive Director.

The most experienced member of the senior staff has been in the position for 6 months, the Industrial Information Officer, Tom McKeon, and the most recent addition, Mary Papachristos, the Membership Services Manager has been in the position for 3 months. There has also been a number of clerical staff changes since that time.

As you would expect, the level of corporate knowledge and experience among the present staff is low, and at a time when the Association is particularly busy with Board of Education and General Council meetings and membership renewals. Each task is a new task, and the overall productivity of the office is less than that which members have come to expect in past years.

We have appreciated your patience and support over the past months while staff have been engaged and training has commenced; and we look forward to pursuing our aim to provide you with a quality service, and to receive your constructive comments.

The new building

As the building continues to be on target to meet its completion date of 10 July 1990, the national office has begun planning for the move into the new building. At this stage it is anticipated that the move will take place during the later half of June.

From the outside members will notice little change in contacting the national office, as both the mailing address and the telephone and facsimile numbers will remain the same as at present.

From the inside your national office staff will again be settling into a new 'home', and aiming to achieve minimal disruption to services during the move.

General Council

The first meeting of the Association's General Council for 1990 was held in March at Parliament House in Melbourne. This was the first Council meeting to be held in Melbourne for a number of years. The Victorian Branch celebrated the occasion with a reception at the Ministry of the Arts to launch the public library standards, *Towards a quality service*.

The General Council is the Association's policy making body, and it is comprised of elected representatives from each State, together with an elected national President, Vice-President and Immediate Past President, and the Chair of the Board of Education.

Council considered a number of major policy issues at this meeting. In particular it considered statistics, formation of new groups, Association awards, industry training issues, the Association's submission to the Working Party to Review Library Provision in Higher Education, and an action plan for 1990-91.

Decisions taken on these issues were as follows:

- calling a national summit on statistics on information statistics and to move towards forming a national advisory panel on statistics for the development of a database for all Australian libraries;
- endorsing the formation of a Reference and Information Services Librarians Section;
- establishing an Interim Committee to consider the application from the North Queensland Regional Group to become a Branch;
- providing additional comments for the final draft of the submission to the Working Party to review Library Provision in Higher Education;
- seeking additional input from members via *inCite* on the matter of Association awards as raised by Alan Bundy in his paper:

- to consider further the options for supporting the National Arts Industry Training Council or seeking to establish an independent industry training council;
- identifying and discussing major issues facing the Association in the coming 2 years from which a discussion paper is to be developed by the President;
- agreeing to call a national meeting in November 1990 to discuss the inter-library loan system and ALIA.

The Council also considered progress reports from the Project Manager for the building, Bill Rushton, and from the Industrial Information Officer on a policy for senior library appointments.

This meeting of Council also had the opportunity to consider the completed contract for the building. This included two copies of all documents and plans which together added up to many kilograms of paper, and a marathon of 3 hours of signing by the President and the General Treasurer!

The draft minutes of the Council meeting have been sent out to all Branches and Divisions. Should you require further information on any of the above Council discussions and considerations, please contact either myself or your Branch General Councillor or Division Secretary.

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